

Qian invites Shevardnadze

MOSCOW (AP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Saturday he had invited his Soviet counterpart to visit Peking early next year to continue preparations for a possible Sino-Soviet summit. Qian set no date or place for what would be an historic encounter between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. The two largest communist nations have been estranged for three decades. "Both sides agree it is important to hold such a meeting," Qian said at the end of a three-day visit to Moscow where he met with Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Qian was the first ranking Chinese official to visit Moscow in 31 years. China and the Soviet Union were allies in the 1950s before relations soured over the direction of the world communist movement. The situation reached a low point in 1969 when the two nations fought a brief frontier war. Asked about prospects for a summit, Qian told reporters in Moscow, "There are some outstanding issues which necessitate further discussion." He added: "For that reason, I have invited my counterpart, Mr. Shevardnadze, to visit China early next year to continue our discussions."

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Crown Prince urges Islamic effort

ISLAMABAD (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called for joint efforts by Islamic countries to set suitable scientific and technological policies to help develop self-reliance. In an address delivered on his behalf by Higher Council of Science and Technology Secretary-General Adnan Badran at an Islamic world seminar here, the Crown Prince said that higher education institutions in the Islamic World should shoulder the responsibility of promoting new ideas and developing resources to attain human and social demands. "It is our responsibility to help the less developed Islamic countries in the field of planning and help them implement applied sciences and technology," the Crown Prince said. He also called for focusing discussions on applications and adaptabilities of new concepts and warned against possible financial difficulties if Islamic countries do not define bases of cooperation in science and technology. Calling for the establishment of a reliable information centre for to help make accurate and objective decisions, the Crown Prince said all Muslims should accept and recognise the importance of integration.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Jayewardene dissolves parliament

COLOMBO (R) — President Junius Jayewardene, yielding to public clamour, announced Saturday the dissolution of parliament and set Feb. 15 for Sri Lanka's first general elections in more than a decade. In a television and radio address he also made it clear he was retiring after 45 years in politics, including 11 years as ruler of the Indian Ocean island, after a presidential election Dec. 19. Jayewardene, 82, said the dissolution of parliament would take effect the day after the election. But in an apparent rebuff to opposition demands he said there was no need to hold parliamentary elections at the same time as the presidential poll.

Iraqi leader visits Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — The vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim, arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday for a previously unannounced visit. The Saudi Press Agency said he was greeted on arrival by Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz. It gave no other details of his visit.

2nd sailor dies from Nimitz accident

BONN (AP) — A 19-year-old sailor burned in an accident aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz died in an American military hospital in West Germany Saturday, a spokeswoman reported. Chadwick R. Henderson of Rockford, had been brought to the Landstuhl army regional medical centre Thursday, a day after the Nimitz accident that killed another sailor and damaged seven aircraft. The Nimitz was operating in the northern Arabian Sea early Wednesday when a 28-mm nose gun on an A-7E Corsair fighter-bomber fired inadvertently during maintenance, touching off an explosion and fire. Scott Dinsberg, 23, died aboard the carrier and Henderson suffered second- and third-degree burns in the fire.

Filipino labour minister in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Filipino Labour Minister Franklin Drillon Saturday started talks in Saudi Arabia that were widely expected to deal with a de facto ban on export of additional Filipino labourers to Saudi Arabia. Drillon arrived in Riyadh late Friday at the invitation of his Saudi counterpart, Muhammad Ali Al Fayez. While Saudi Arabia did not issue formal restrictions on Filipino workers, recruiting agencies here and in the Philippines reported a halt in granting Filipino work permits as from July. The general ban did not affect Filipino labourers already in the kingdom.

Two Saudis executed in Mecca

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia said Saturday it had beheaded two men in Mecca for killing a man during a "disrespectful meeting." A Ministry of Interior statement said Bakri Al Qurani and Faisal Yemba'awi, both Saudis, were executed Friday. It gave no other details.

Egyptian reelected U.N. agency head

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Mostafa Tolba, a scientist from Egypt, was reelected Friday as executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, headquartered in Nairobi. Tolba will serve another four years as head of an agency which faces the critical issues of climatic deterioration, the so-called greenhouse effect, and industrial pollution.

Poland to let Walesa travel abroad

WARSAW (R) — Polish authorities told Solidarity leader Lech Walesa Saturday they were ready to give him a passport to travel abroad for the first time since his union was suppressed under martial law seven years ago. A spokesman for Walesa said he planned to go to France next week to attend 40th-anniversary celebrations of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand. The passport office in the northern port of Gdansk rang Walesa's home Saturday and said his passport was ready for collection, the union leader's spokesman said.

Top-level Iranian team to visit Moscow

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, which said last month it wanted to improve ties with the Soviet Union, is sending a high-level delegation to Moscow Sunday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said the economic and political team, headed by Economy and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Irvani, would attend meetings of a joint economic commission. Irvani said talks would centre on expanding collaboration at the Isfahan steel mill, joint exploitation of border rivers, dam construction and the export of Iranian natural gas to the Soviet Union.

Fabius: Israel should reciprocate

TUNIS (R) — The president of France's national Assembly said Saturday the Palestinian movement had made a move towards peace and it was now up to Israel to reciprocate. "The Palestinians have taken a positive step... now it is Israel's turn to make a step forward. How is it up to the Israelis to decide," Laurent Fabius told a news conference. Fabius, ending a three-day visit to Tunisia, said the position of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had for a long time blocked progress towards Middle East peace but this had changed after the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers last month.

Quake jolts southern California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A moderate earthquake shook southern California early Saturday, briefly knocking out power to more than 100,000 homes and businesses but causing no major damage. At least a dozen minor injuries were reported. The 3:38 a.m. (1138 GMT) quake registered 5.0 on the Richter Scale, said Hal Dally, a spokesman for the California Institute of Technology Seismology Laboratory in Pasadena. The quake was felt at least 145 kilometres away. The epicentre was tentatively located northeast of Los Angeles in west Pasadena, almost directly under the Rose Bowl Stadium, Dally said. The 66-year-old Rose Bowl, scene of the annual tournament of Roses New Year's Day College Football game, appeared to be undamaged.

Dali continues to improve

BARCELONA (AP) — Surrealist painter Salvador Dali was getting out of bed as his condition improved Saturday after a week's stay in a clinic here for severe heart trouble aggravated by blood clots in the left lung. In a statement, a five-doctor team said the 84-year-old artist's condition "continues to improve favourably both from the clinical point of view and that of the amount of oxygen in his blood. But no prognosis will be given," the statement said.

Moscow congratulates Bhutto

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union congratulated Benazir Bhutto Saturday on her appointment as Pakistani prime minister, saying it hoped for good relations with Islamabad under her leadership. TASS news agency, in a brief report, said the Soviet government had sent a congratulatory telegram to Bhutto, sworn in as prime minister Friday. The dispatch made no mention of major differences between the two countries over Afghanistan.

Jordan gets more Canadian aid for hydrocarbon exploration

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC) Saturday signed an agreement to extend an existing accord on hydrocarbon exploration in Jordan.

The extension involves additional PCIAC funding in the amount of Canadian dollars 13 million. The agreement was signed by Peter M. Towse, chairman of PCIAC, and NRA Director-General Kamal Jreissat. This amount brings PCIAC's contribution to NRA's efforts to evaluate the

hydrocarbon potential of Jordan to Canadian dollars 32.1 million.

This extension will permit PCIAC to continue the seismic acquisition and processing programme in the Sirhan and Northern Highlands areas. This programme started in January 1988 in the Sirhan area. The new agreement also provides for further Canadian technical assistance to NRA and for continuing training activities until March 1990.

PCIAC will finance the foreign costs of the project, which will utilise contracted goods

and services from Canada's oil and gas industry. The NRA will provide for all local costs.

PCIAC was established in 1981 by the Canadian government to provide technical and exploration-related assistance to help developing countries exploit their hydrocarbon potential. To date, PCIAC has mounted over 35 projects in over 20 developing countries in the Western Hemisphere, Africa and Asia. Wherever possible, these projects are executed by contracted Canadian private-sector companies, thus showcasing Canadian equipment and expertise overseas.

Israelis kill Palestinian boy, shoot and wound 20

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot to death a 16-year-old and wounded 20 other Palestinians Saturday as stone-throwing protesters clashed with soldiers in the occupied territories, reports and hospital officials said.

An army spokeswoman confirmed the death and said "several" Palestinians were wounded. The army clamped curfews on three West Bank towns and barred reporters from entering Nablus which, with 100,000 residents, is the West Bank's largest city.

The teenager was killed in Nablus when troops opened fire on demonstrators who erected barricades and hurled rocks and bottles at soldiers, the army said. Reports said the boy was taken to the city's Irbid hospital after

he was shot in the neck and chest.

The death raised to at least 328 the number of Palestinians killed since the start of the year-long Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A 27-year-old man was shot in the head with a plastic bullet in Nablus and taken to Ramallah hospital where he was in critical condition, a hospital official said.

In the Gaza Strip, witnesses said troops shot and wounded at least five boys who were 100 demonstrators threw rocks at cars and soldiers outside a Palestinian elementary school.

Witnesses said soldiers opened fire with rubber bullets and live ammunition when stone-throwing boys outside the school in Khan Yunis refused to disperse.

The youngest of the wounded

was an 11-year-old boy shot in the right leg with a plastic bullet, reports said.

On Friday, more than 300 women marched to protest Israel's 21-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The women, marking the nearly one year of Palestinian rebellion in the occupied territories, wore black clothes and carried signs declaring "Stop the occupation."

"We Jews have never been occupiers," said one marcher, Jewel Bellush of New York. "There's no such thing as a democratic occupation."

The demonstration was organised by the Women in Black, a group founded by Israeli women after the start of the Palestinian uprising last December.

PLO hails U.N. vote to move session to Geneva

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Saturday the U.N. General Assembly's decision to hold its Palestine debate in Geneva was a triumph which proved international support for its cause.

The assembly voted 154 to two late Friday to move the debate from New York to Geneva so that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat could take part. It deplored the refusal of the United States to give Arafat a visa to address the assembly in New York.

"This vote amounts to an international referendum in favour of the Palestinian cause and the PLO," Executive Committee member Abdullah Hourani told Reuters.

The United States and Israel voted against the resolution and Britain cast the only abstention.

"Now the United States, despite all its might, finds itself alone in the world with only Israel by its side," Hourani said.

"It proves that the PLO leadership was right when it said that the resolutions of the Palestine National Council would mobilise support for the Palestinian cause and further isolate an intransigent Israel."

The PNC met in Algiers in November to endorse a new peace strategy which implicitly accepts a two-state solution in Palestine.

It also proclaimed an independent Palestinian state which the PLO says has already won recognition from more than 70 countries.

In its vote Friday, the U.N. General Assembly gave its host country an unprecedented rebuke.

The resolution said the U.N. General Assembly "deplores" the United States' refusal to reconsider and grant the visa to Arafat (see page 2).

The Geneva session will be the first the United Nations has convened outside New York since

the world body moved into its headquarters building in Manhattan in 1952. Special sessions have been held in Geneva and elsewhere.

Switzerland has no problem with granting a visa to Arafat so he can address the U.N. session in Geneva, a Swiss Foreign Ministry spokesman reaffirmed Saturday.

The PNC speaker was quoted Saturday as saying to council might reconvene unless the United States recognised the newly-proclaimed Palestinian state.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh told Amman's Sawt Al Shaah daily he would call a new session if Washington persisted in its "obstinate refusal to recognise the Palestinian state and the resolutions of the PNC."

Sayeh said the aim of a new session would be to decide on appropriate action in light of Washington's stance.

EEC reaffirms guarded support for PNC decisions

RHODES, Greece (Agencies) — The European Economic Community (EEC) Saturday reaffirmed their guarded support for a Nov. 15 Palestinian declaration of an independent state.

The 12 EEC leaders agreed to send their U.N. ambassadors to a special session of the United Nations in Geneva. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said France, Greece, Italy and Spain had wanted to send their foreign ministers.

The U.N. General Assembly is to meet in Geneva to hear Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. The world body decided to hold the special session at its European headquarters after the United States refused to issue an entry visa to Arafat to allow him to address the assembly in New York.

Dumas said 11 EEC states

would send their U.N. envoys to the Geneva session and that Greece would send Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias. Papoulias will represent the EEC as his country now holds the rotating chairmanship of the community.

The leaders reaffirmed a joint statement issued by EEC foreign ministers a fortnight ago, which said the decisions by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) were particularly important and included positive steps.

Northern member states — Britain, West Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands — blocked a plan for an immediate community peace initiative which would include contacts with the PLO.

"We came to the conclusion that at this stage there is nothing to add" to the statement the EEC issued Nov. 21, said Dutch Foreign

Minister Hans van den Broek. That statement welcomed the Nov. 15 PNC declaration but stopped well short of recognising an independent Palestine.

The EEC leaders have shied away from expressing an opinion on the U.S. refusal to give Arafat a visa.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, the summit's chairman, had said earlier he would suggest a meeting between the EEC and Arafat. But summit sources said there was no discussion of that issue.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told a news conference that she thought the statement by EEC foreign ministers on the Middle East was appropriate and effective.

"It is not really good enough to expect us suddenly to vary things in conversation over dinner," she said.

Palestinians shouldering responsibility, international community should exert effort

King urges world action for peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

LONDON — The Palestinian people are shouldering their responsibility towards bringing about a just and comprehensive negotiated settlement of the Middle East conflict and it is the duty of the international community to exert efforts towards achieving peace in the region, His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday.



HM King Hussein

In a speech accepting a honorary membership of the Cambridge Union Society, the King briefly reviewed the situation in the Arab-Israeli conflict and reiterated his call for an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has shown that it is "shouldering its responsibilities to arrive at a true and just peace," the King said. "The

Palestinians have demonstrated their willingness to join in a historic reconciliation between Arabs and Israelis.

"This was clearly manifested in the resolutions adopted last month in Algiers by the Palestine National Council. The Palestinian people are now on record as fully accepting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for any peaceful settlement attained through an international peace conference, and of renouncing terrorism. With this new key position, they have responded to the various demands, notably those to the United States government, to make specific and unequivocal commit-

ment to these resolutions in order to qualify as a partner to the peace process."

The King warned that the situation in the region should not be allowed to continue since it is a direct threat to world peace and stability, especially that Israel has built up a nuclear arsenal and "has recently acquired space satellite technology as a further element of confrontation."

(Continued on page 4)

Eritrean front thanks Jordan, seeks talks with Addis Ababa

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Eritrean Liberation Front — United Organisation (ELF-UO) Saturday expressed appreciation for Jordan's support of the struggle of the Eritrean people for liberation and independence, and reiterated its call for unconditional, direct negotiations with the Ethiopian government.

Speaking at a press conference here, ELF-UO executive committee member Salah Ayai said the ELF-UO favoured direct negotiations with the Ethiopian government under the aegis of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) with Sudan acting as a mediator.

The ELF-UO, however, rejects a recent proposal for peace put forward by Addis Ababa.



Representatives of the Eritrean Liberation Front — United Organisation hold a press conference in Amman Wednesday (J.T. photo)

Ayai described the plan as a bid to "suppress the Eritrean national identity."

"The proposal calls for granting administrative self-rule to the

province of Eritrea at the expense of annexing the strategic province of Dankalia," Ayai said. "It also

(Continued on page 4)

Israel to extradite gang that hijacked Soviet plane

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A Soviet plane arrived in Israel Saturday to pick up an armed gang which hijacked a school bus in southern Soviet Union then flew to Tel Aviv in a transport plane provided by Soviet authorities, airport officials said.

The Soviet airliner, a Tupolev-154 carrying a team of 19 medical staff and police investigators, was met by Israeli officials.

Airport officials said the gang which surrendered shortly after arrival in Tel Aviv Friday would not be flown out before Sunday.

Israeli authorities said there were four men and a woman in the gang but Soviet officials in Moscow Saturday mentioned only four men.

Israel has no extradition treaty with the Soviet Union, but both sides have signed international agreements regarding punishing and extraditing hijackers.

There are no formal diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel but a Soviet consular delegation operates from Finland's embassy in Tel Aviv. There is a similar Israeli delegation in Moscow.

During the hijack crisis Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin first contacted the Soviet Union with the help of the United

States, a spokesman said. The gang, carrying pistols, a hunting rifle and \$2 million in roubles and other currencies, surrendered to Israeli authorities without resistance shortly after landing.

The Soviet government handed over the transport plane and money in return for 30 schoolchildren and a teacher held hostage for 22 hours.

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Alon Liel said his government had received an official Soviet request for the gang. He said the plane had been sent in coordination with the Israeli aviation authority.

"We would like the story to be over as soon as possible," Liel said.

Soviet KGB negotiators hand-

ed drugs and sackfuls of ransom money to the hijackers before giving them the plane to fly to Israel in exchange for children they had seized hostage, Soviet officials said in Moscow, Saturday.

Details of the two-day drama were given by a deputy chairman of the KGB security police, Vitaly Ponomarev, in an extremely rare appearance at a news conference. Ponomarev headed the security operation.

Ponomarev said only four men were involved. He said the money, paid in hard currency, had been thrown aboard the plane as a ransom for 11 of the 30 children who were originally seized on a bus in the town of Ordzhonikidze.

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Princess Basma inspects three centres in Tafileh

TAFILEH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma visited Tafileh region Saturday and inspected three community centres there set up by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASF) to promote services and improve living standards for the local inhabitants.

The princess inspected work and activities at the centres, located in Tafileh city, Rweim and Basra, which provide training courses for health services for mothers and children and cultural activities for youth and children. They have libraries and multi-purpose halls for these activities.

The Rweim Community Centre has a kindergarten for three to six-year-old children, a wing to train women to make dresses and a mother and child care centre. A QASF spokesman said that the three centres cost JD 300,000 and were founded following a survey conducted by specialists to determine the services required by the local inhabitants.



Royal Scientific Society President Dr. Jawad Anani and Cities and Villages Development Bank Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Horani sign a research agreement (Petra photo)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

RIFAI CONGRATULATES BHUTTO: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday sent a cable of congratulations to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto upon her taking office as head of government. In his cable, Rifai wished Bhutto success in the leadership of the Pakistani people. The prime minister expressed confidence that the unique and special relationship between Jordan and Pakistan will continue and flourish in the interest of their two peoples. (Petra)

ARAB NEWS AGENCIES MEETING: Jordan is taking part in a two-day meeting by the Arab news agencies union which opened in Damascus Saturday. Delegates will discuss the outcome of the Euro-Arab dialogue, in promoting work of Arab news agencies' activities and will make a general assessment of the union's operations in 1987 and chart a plan for the coming year. Ali Safadi, director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra is taking part in the meeting.

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A new batch of People's Army recruits Saturday began training courses at the Karak Governorate. The participants will receive lectures and training exercises on various types of weapons, civil defence, and public safety. (Petra)

JD 74,000 FOR CHARITY: The Cabinet agreed to provide JD 74,000 in financial aid to the charitable associations in Jordan from the Social Development Ministry's allocations. (Petra)

EFFECTS OF FLOURIDE: Health Minister Dr. Zaid Hamzeb Saturday chaired a meeting on matters related to flouride found in drinking water and its effects on teeth. Dr. Hamzeb stressed the need to preserve the students' health and teeth. A number of health officials and dentists attended the meeting. The Health Ministry had reached an agreement with the University of Jordan to carry out a study on the effects of flouride on the students' teeth in various parts of the Kingdom. (Petra)

MAN JAILED FOR 2 YEARS: The military court has sentenced Faisal Abdul Rahim Ibrahim Salama to two-year hard labour and the payment of JD 600 for possession of hashish. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

RAWDAH ELECTIONS: Preparations have been completed for the Rawdah municipal elections in the Na'our district which is due to begin Monday. 904 registered voters will elect eight of the 15 candidates competing for the council seats. (Petra)

Odeh, Saudi team discuss income tax systems

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Hama Odeh Saturday had a meeting with a delegation representing the Saudi Arabian Zakat and Income Tax Department and discussed matters of mutual interest and related to income tax collection and income tax systems.

The delegation led by Mansour Abdul Ghaflar who later met with Income Tax Department Director Salman Al Tarawneh to discuss questions related to income tax system. Later the delegation visited a number of the department sections and examined their functions.

Also Saturday, the Saudi delegation visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and was briefed by RSS Vice-President Dr. Jamal Bdour on the society's future plans and role in supporting scientific and technological research in Jordan.

The delegation toured a number of sections and laboratories, and watched a documentary film on the RSS.

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RSS to study Ma'an socio-economic situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) Saturday signed an agreement according to which the RSS Economic Research Department will carry out a study on the socio-economic situation of the Ma'an Governorate with the help of CVDB employees.

The study is designed to look into the chances available to carry out small and medium-size investments.

The study will contribute to providing background information needed for the feasibility study of certain projects.

The Regional Development Fund also needs this study so as to determine priority projects. The current study, which will

mostly last for five months, will begin in December.

The CVDB is currently storing information in a special computer to serve as a reliable basis for information which various sides can refer to, particularly those interested in investment.

The agreement was signed by RSS President Dr. Jawad Anani and CVDB Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Horani.

The CVDB had earlier supported two studies carried out by the RSS in the Tafleeh Governorate and the Baqa'a camp.

The CVDB also cooperated with Mu'ta University to carry out a similar study in the Karak Governorate. Studies for the remaining governorates will be completed at a later date.

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226 families of martyrs, 2,569 of wounded receive help

Popular Committee for Intifada collects JD 1.2m in contributions

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One million, two hundred and twenty one thousand and one hundred and thirty dinars (JD 1,221,130) have been collected by the Popular Committees for the Intifada in Jordan for the families of the wounded and martyrs in the occupied territories.

The individual contributions and funds raised through a few charitable functions have helped 2,569 families of the wounded and 226 families of martyrs, said Dr. Mamdoh Abbadi, head of the popular committee.

"It is not only the money but also the community effort to support the intifada which is important," said Abbadi who is also the president of the Jordan Medical Association.

Whereas the bulk of the money has been donated by banks in Jordan — the Arab Bank topping the list with a contribution of JD 100,000 — individuals have tried within their capacity to raise money.

Abbadi cited following example: a store owner in Karak

places a collection box in his store and customers put in loose change or more according to their financial status.

To date there are popular committee branches in Amman, Irbid, Salt, Zarqa, Karak and Mafrak, headed by the mayors of these municipalities. Each branch has between 15 to 20 working members.

Initially, the idea of such committees was introduced by the Professional Associations Union. "Under normal circumstances the people in the occupied territories need help, so now with the intifada they need even more help," said Abbadi.

Shortly after the intifada began the Professional Associations Union presented the proposal to

Abdul Majid Shoman, head of the Arab Bank. After gaining the approval of the government and the right to have the donations tax free, the executive committee — composed of the heads of the banks, chambers of commerce, chambers of trade and industry, woman's organisation, labour, medical and lawyers unions — held their first meeting in January 1987.

"These personalities were chosen because they represent large segments of the population, plus they are influential in collecting large sums of money," said Abbadi.

Most of the committee's work was concentrated on banks, unions, and the chambers of trade and industry. However, the committee found donations from some sectors — historically known for their involvement — not as forthcoming in their donations. Abbadi pointed to the members of the chamber of trade and commerce, saying, "they were not up to the standard we hoped."

Nevertheless, the work of the committees was quickly published in the occupied territories — mostly verbally. The needy Palestinian families receive the money in Amman. They must approach the Professional Associations Union building and present the proper documents and photocopy of the passport, as proof that there has been a wounded victim or a martyr in their family.

Since some of the families can not afford to come to Jordan, they can send their documents and papers with other Palestinians crossing the bridge. "We are convinced that the money is reaching deserving families," he said.

During an executive committee meeting held Saturday, its members reviewed the past year's activities and decided to embark on new ways to collect donations due to the prevailing circumstances.

As Abbadi put it: "When we started we did not expect the intifada to continue this long, but now all indicators show that it will continue indefinitely. We will continue our support and we have asked our members to donate more."

U.K. trade team, Jordanian firms reach 2 joint venture agreements

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — A British trade delegation representing 16 manufacturers from the northern region of England are currently visiting Jordan to promote trade ties between the two countries and to look into channels of mutual cooperation.

Steve Wilson, head of the trade mission, organised by the British Northern Development Company (NDC), which arrived Friday, said Saturday that an agreement has already been reached with two Jordanian companies for joint venture projects, including

local manufacturing under licence from a British manufacturer.

Wilson told the Jordan Times he hoped the mission would assist industries in England's northern region to market their goods in Jordan and to look into possibilities of joint venture projects. He said that Middle East Business Consultants Ltd., marketing consultants for British Companies in the Middle East, who are represented in this trade mission, are seriously considering setting up an office in Amman.

The north of England is an area where heavy industry such as coal mining, steel, shipbuilding, and many types of engineering has been rationalised and modernised over the past 25 years and is now both prosperous and competitive in world markets.

Wilson said although recent government restrictions on imports were bound to reduce the volume of Jordanian imports from Britain, the companies represented in the trade mission were not producers of the restricted goods.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with Jordanian business counterparts, as well as representatives of the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade.

He stressed the importance of companies going out and visiting other countries to market products and services.

Near East faces food sufficiency problems, Hmoud says

AMMAN (Petra) — The countries of the Near East confront numerous problems in providing sufficient food for their rapidly increasing population, although many of them have great agricultural and human resources potentials, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said Saturday.

"In view of the slow-down in food production, the countries of this region have become dependent, to a large extent, on imports from other countries, while at the same time they have failed to increase the input to utilise available arable land for increasing food production," the minister told the opening session of a constituent assembly representing the agricultural marketing organisations in the North Africa and Near East regions.

The meeting has been organised by the Jordanian Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) in cooperation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Hmoud said Jordan believes that economic integration among countries in the region lies in close cooperation in the process of marketing agricultural products and an exchange of expertise to overcome problems impeding production.

The AMO Director General delivered a speech saying he believed that the creation of a regional grouping representing the agricultural organisations, will give impetus to the general efforts by nations to facilitate the marketing of their products and encourage cooperation in food production.

FAO representative Salah Juma'a said that the four-day meeting was bound to enhance the ties of cooperation among the countries of the region and between them and FAO in matters related to food production.

Juma'a noted that the Near East and North African countries all suffer from the problem of poor marketing of their products, "but the current meeting is expected to find means of stepping up cooperation that would benefit all concerned countries."

He said that this network requires constant maintenance not only for the economy but also to safeguard travel and ensure safety on the roads.

"The Ministry of Public Works and Housing is responsible for the roads in Jordan and it is

Yarmouk seminar to discuss proper use of natural resources

IRBID (J.T.) — Unemployment in Jordan and the proper utilisation of the country's natural resources will be discussed at a seminar to be opened at Yarmouk University Monday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the two-day seminar will discuss 19 working papers dealing with the question of unemployment, its causes and means of dealing with its consequences.

The seminar, which is being organised by the university's Faculty of Economy and Administrative Sciences, aims to help Jordanians make better use of their human and natural resources, organise the labour market in a more effective manner and find new ways for promoting development in the Kingdom, according to Dr. Hussein Talafha the faculty dean.

Adverse effects of non-Jordanian workers in the country, domestic emigration involving the movement of citizens from rural to urban regions, Jordan's total workforce capacity and the Kingdom's efforts to exploit oil shale will be among the other topics that will be discussed by the participants Talafha noted.

Also taking part in the seminar are representatives of the Ministries of Planning and Labour, the Royal Scientific Society, the Central Bank of Jordan, the Vocational Training Corporation and the International Labour Organisation.

Kanaan told the meeting that the data bank provides information on industry and commerce that can help Jordanian manufacturers to produce more competitive products.

Also Saturday Kanaan presided over a seminar co-ordinated to orient representatives of the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade on the international commercial data bank and directed the prospect of linking Jordan with it to promote the country's trade.

The two sides reviewed joint plans for southern Jordan and Sinai and examined existing plans in Jordan for promoting provincial rule and re-organising cities and urban regions.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- An exhibition on Alia, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre.
- A combined exhibit of watercolours, oil paintings and prints including works by: Fyrial Azami, Diana Shamoumki, Rina Farah, and few other artists, with a display of wall hangings by Yvonne Yassine on popular Nursery Rhyme Themes at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental Gallery.
- An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at the Fine Arts Department, the Yarmouk University.
- The annual book exhibition of the Yarmouk University which includes academic, scientific and cultural books besides exhibiting dictionaries and scientific encyclopedias.
- The French book exhibition at the French Cultural Centre.
- A Yugoslavian art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- A feature film entitled "Notorious" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- An Italian film entitled "La Circostanza" (The Incident) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- A lecture on Islamic Art Conservation by Marit: Smith, Paper Conservator at Smithsonian Institution's Sackler and Freer Galleries in Washington D.C., at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts — 5:00 p.m.

Amin meets Egyptian group

Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Saturday met with the Egyptian economic delegation currently visiting Jordan, and reviewed the goals and achievements of the five-year socio-economic development plan in Amman, stressing that the plan represents Jordan's aspirations to attain the highest standard of progress and prosperity. He referred to the importance of exchanging expertise and information in the field of regional planning. The delegation also visited the governorate's operations room. (Petra photo)

Seminar discusses use of drugs in poultry industry

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A several day regional seminar on the use of drugs and medicine in the poultry industry opened at the Jordan-based Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre for the Near East.

The seminar, organised by the centre in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will discuss most proper means of safeguarding the safety of birds, the use of vaccines and medicine in poultry treatment operations, and ways to help ensure successful industry.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud, who opened the sessions, noted that the private sector in Jordan has lately increased its importation of vaccines and medication for birds in the light of a great increase in poultry meat and the expansion of poultry farms in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Agriculture for its part has opened a special unit to deal with veterinary medicines and to control the use of drugs in this industry, Hmoud said.

"Through its various facilities and affiliated departments, the Ministry of Agriculture is providing advice to all concerned parties over the importation of medications, vaccines and their types and registers, as well as organising the distribution of medicines in order to control and contain poultry-diseases," the minister noted.

UNDP deputy representative in Amman Tawfiq Ibn Amara spoke at the meeting outlining the seminar's objectives. The centre's Director Abdul Karim Al Khazraji referred in a speech to the efforts of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which runs the centre, in stemming poultry-related diseases.

The first secretary at the Italian embassy in Amman, who attended the opening session noted that his government was a major contributor to the project and is currently financing 62 per cent of the projects operations through FAO.

Since its establishment in 1985, the centre has done its best to provide excellent services to countries in the Near East through training consultancies, technical assistance, feed analyses, disease diagnosis and field surveys, the Italian official said.

So far, he added, 209 participants from 18 countries in the region attended the centre's courses and benefitted their nations.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171-6

Jordan spent JD 3.5m on roads, maintenance in 1987 — Zawaideh

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day seminar opened here Saturday to discuss means of dealing with pits on Jordanian roads and modern road repair techniques and processes, as well as proper measures to improve quality of roads in the Kingdom.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh, who opened the sessions on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, told the meeting that Jordan last year spent JD 3.5 million or 10 per cent of the total public expenditure on roads and road maintenance.

"Jordanian towns and villages are connected by a modern asphalted network of roads, considered as a national wealth contributing towards the country's development," Zawaideh noted.

He said that this network requires constant maintenance not only for the economy but also to safeguard travel and ensure safety

Jordan Times

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On their own

THE overwhelming support for the U.N. General Assembly's decision to transfer the U.N. debate on Palestine from the U.N. headquarters in New York to its European office in Geneva in order to afford PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat an opportunity to address the U.N. body is a devastating rebuff to Washington's protestations that the voice of the PLO must not be heard. The 154 state vote support to this move against only the U.S. and Israel is a knockout reaction by the whole international community to the U.S. and Israel's awkward determination to silence the voice of the Palestinians and derail and sabotage the moderate forces among them. It is just too clear now that neither the U.S. nor Israel seeks accommodations with the Palestinians and by undermining the moderate elements among them they want to make sure that the Palestinians would remain forever bypassed.

Whatever happened to the American unequivocal offer to engage the PLO in a dialogue the second it accepts U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 is uppermost on the minds of statesmen worldwide. It will be recalled the whole world sighed with relief when the PLO took a great risk for peace by accepting these very resolutions in anticipation of reciprocal reaction from the other side. A breakthrough, one thought, was imminent with that Palestinian declaration however, instead of reciprocating the PLO's gamble for peace, Tel Aviv and Washington started punching holes in it to the extent that one is forced to conclude that no matter what the PLO says or does it will not be enough to satisfy the insatiable Israeli thirst for complete Arab surrender.

Fortunately, however, the nations of the world representing every civilisation, religion and ideology, have welcomed the voices of moderation within the Palestinian organisation as genuine and worthy of nurturing and consolidation. That is why even the Western allies of the U.S. parted company with it and opted to lend support to the glimmer of hope that was struck at the PNC's meeting in Algiers last month. As things look now, Washington and Tel Aviv stand alone in their unreasonable posture. Isn't there a clear message in all this for these two lonely countries?



Zaki - Sawt Al Shaab

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday discussed current efforts by King Hussein to end differences between Egypt and Syria as part of his relentless endeavours to bolster inter-Arab relations. The Arab summit meeting in Amman in 1987 at which the King succeeded in ending many differences among Arabs, is still alive and is being utilised by the King to bring about harmony among Arab countries on issues of common concern, said the paper. King Hussein has always said that bridging gaps among Arabs and establishing consensus among Arab leaders lie at the basis of all joint Arab actions, the paper added. It said that the King's tours in Arab states are dedicated to achieving this goal and serving the Arab Nation's interests. The King's efforts, the paper concluded, are welcomed warmly by the Arab masses and are indeed a source of pride for the Jordanian people.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, the paper's editor attacks the U.S. as being against the achievement of peace in the Middle East in the framework of an international formula, because he says the U.S.-Zionist plan aims at imposing capitulation on the Arabs forcing them to have unilateral agreements with the Jewish state. Rakan Al Majali says that by refusing to allow PLO leader Yasser Arafat to enter New York to address the U.N. General Assembly, the U.S. has not only placed itself side by side with the Israeli enemy but has earned for itself world-wide condemnation for its policy. The PLO has offered all it can to reach peace, and by accepting U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO has proved willing to reach a peaceful and lasting settlement and ready to meet the U.S. demands, the writer adds. He says that by adopting this unjustified stand the U.S. has proved that it is totally against the idea of an international conference to bring about a lasting peace.

Al Dustour daily paid tribute to King Hussein's effort which it said led to the emergence of a unified Arab stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question and helped to pave the way for the Algerian proclamation of the Palestinian state. The crowning of the King's endeavours at the Arab and international levels came with the voting at the U.N. General Assembly by 151 states against the U.S. stand with regard to the PLO, the paper noted.

Sawt Al Shaab daily wrote about the new phase in joint Arab action in the wake of the Palestinian National Council's resolutions in Algiers and the PLO's recognition of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Arab diplomatic offensive is now at its highest and is designed to back the Palestinian people in their drive to regain their rights, the paper said. The paper said that King Hussein is spearheading the offensive on the international level and his drive is clearly aimed at backing the just struggle of the Palestinian people. Jordan, it said, has earlier responded to the PLO demand for severing ties with the West Bank, thus paving the ground for the Palestinian state and the Algerian proclamation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Time to adjust

THE CURRENT economic crisis which erupted at mid October and resulted in the floating of the Jordan dinar, helped open up the economic file and disclose all the contents without having to worry that the disclosure may cause negative impact or deepen the crisis.

However, the Jordanian national economy have strong points. Gold and other reserves, held by the Central Bank, are not the most important of these strong points. In fact the gold and free convertible currencies held by the Central Bank can finance two months of imports, or cover the installments and interest on foreign loans for six months.

The Jordanian economy is relatively strong because it is dynamic, resilient and has the capability of absorbing shocks, and containing the problems. It makes it easy to recognise the mistakes and take corrective measures before it is too late to act.

The October monetary crisis that Jordan witnessed could have caused a total economic collapse in another country. In Jordan it has become the start of a revival movement, and adjustment in

the right direction. People have accepted the sacrifices they were called upon to shoulder, and this surprised foreign observers.

Currently, the expatriates remittances and the partial return to the dinar have become sufficient to cover all private sector needs for imports of goods and services. As a matter of fact the moneychangers experienced during the last week a surplus in dollars and a shortage of dinars that they were either borrowing dinars or liquidating dollars to meet their commitments in local currency.

Statistics also show that Jordanians finding new jobs in the Arab Gulf states are almost equal to those who are returning back from the Gulf due to the expiry of their contracts or for other reasons.

Jordanian exports responded to the new rate of exchange. Estimates indicate that the rise in exports is close to 20 per cent if measured in dollars or quantities, and 60 per cent in terms of dinars. Imports will definitely undergo a major structural change as soon as the transitional period is over. The foreign trade sector

will soon adjust itself to the realistic means of the country. Jordan also owns huge reserves in private hands. These could return to the country as soon as confidence is restored and the right atmosphere is created, and when such step becomes a convincing proposition from a self interest point of view.

Jordan's excellent infrastructure built during the 1970s enables the country to go on for years without major capital expenditure. Maintenance improvements, and utilisation of idle capacity can do the trick.

The strategic geopolitical position of Jordan in the Arab World, and the quality of its manpower will enable the country to face up to the new challenges and difficulties, and eventually overcome them.

This is not to suggest that Jordan can overcome all its present difficulties by itself, and without help from Arab partners, friends and international institutions. It only means that those supporters can help us help ourselves, and utilise our strong points.

There are ways to ease the Third World's debt

By Melvin Fagen

GENEVA — The change in U.S. presidents will provide an opportunity to explore more effective ways of coping with Third World debt.

The key to solving the debt problem is to revive private bank lending. To encourage this, creditor governments and inter-governmental agencies, like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, should guarantee future credits from private banks to the indebted nations.

At present, this credit has dried up. In the past two years, creditors have received \$46 billion more from debtor countries than they have lent in new money. Measures to reduce existing debts would discourage private lending. Creditor governments would be unlikely to fill the gap by increasing official transfers.

Exhortations and arm-twisting by governments and the IMF no

longer have much effect on the banks. But there would be inducement in governmental guarantees for the repayment of interest and principal on new lending — but only on government-approved projects.

Such government guarantees would be no innovation. For years, the U.S. Export-Import Bank has been guaranteeing credits granted for foreign sales of U.S. products. In September it was announced that the United States had guaranteed \$5 billion of Israeli debt securities that were "repackaged" from government military loans to Israel, and that Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia and Turkey would be issued similar U.S. guarantees.

If it is in the U.S. national interest to issue governmental guarantees for bonds issued by these countries, why is it not in the national interest to provide them for U.S. lenders who grant

credits to debtor nations?

By issuing such guarantees for new private lending, the U.S. government would not be bailing out the banks, as it effectively does now by providing taxpayers' money, directly and through inter-governmental agencies, to help debtor countries pay current annual charges on their debts.

Another beneficial policy change would be large reductions in annual foreign exchange payments by debtor countries on their existing debts. For the foreseeable future, most Third World countries will be unable to pay even the interest on their debts much less the principal, because of a lack of foreign exchange.

Rigdon Dornbusch, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has suggested allowing debtor countries to make annual debt payments in their own currencies for the next 10 years. This would give them a breathing spell

in which to begin recovery projects and undertake needed structural changes.

The sums paid in local currency would enter special accounts held by the creditors in the debtor country, as was done by Britain when it blocked sterling payments after World War II. These accounts would enable the private creditor banks to avoid writing off the sums due, or even making debt-loss provisions in their balance sheets, while lowering the banks' current tax liabilities.

The blocked funds need not remain idle; interest would be paid on them, and transfers for productive domestic investment or other approved local spending could be authorised.

This would be an effective way to lower the annual payments burden.

To help ease repayment burdens, the IMF also could change the conditions it imposes on the

debtor nations. Its austerity policies, a condition for adjusting debt burdens, have been misguided. Not only have they failed to stop inflation, they have led to sharp declines in living standards, undermining regimes trying to move toward greater democracy.

The IMF should help debtor countries reduce budget deficits by allowing smaller debt-service payments in foreign exchange. In the Philippines, for example, such payments account for one-fifth of the government budget.

It should request only gradual reductions in state subsidies for basic foods and other goods on which living standards depend. It should recommend lower interest rates, to stimulate investment in the expanded domestic production of basic foods and fuels.

It should help the debtor governments institute expanded programmes for rural development, health care, education and

social welfare.

It should insist on effective measures to repatriate capital unlawfully transferred abroad — including money taken out of the country by government leaders — and prevent such transfers in the future. Measures are needed, too, to eliminate bribery on projects financed by foreign loans.

These are goals that the IMF should and could achieve. New policies of this kind, introduced by the next U.S. administration and coupled with measures aimed at increasing the export receipts of Third World countries, would not require any real sacrifice by the industrialised countries. Rather, they would help to increase exports to Third World countries.

The old policies have failed. Now is the time to change them. The U.S. government should take the lead — International Herald Tribune.

Arab American community coming of age

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — From the White House and Congress to the docks of Seattle and the farms of California, the Arab American community is coming of age.

Many Arab Americans believe the choice of John Sununu as President-elect George Bush's chief of staff and George Mitchell as Senate majority leader have given new legitimacy and respectability to their 2.5-million-member community. Both men have

relatives of Arab origin.

"The process of exclusion that we suffered is now broken," said James Zogby, executive director of the Arab American Institute, a lobbying group. "We have managed to remove the taint attached to us and in future as a community much like the Hispanics and Asians," he said.

But unlike Hispanics, Asians and other ethnic minorities in the United States, Arab Americans are often strongly identified by the public in terms of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Attitudes

towards them have been shaped by the strong support of Congress and the administration for Israel's side of the dispute.

Sununu, whose grandfather was Lebanese and who has been active in the National Association of Arab Americans, learned this political lesson the hard way.

His selection as Bush's White House gatekeeper drew anxious reactions from the Jewish community over its refusal last year to endorse a proclamation condemning a U.N. resolution that enacted Zionism with racism.

Sununu apologised at a news conference in Washington earlier this month, saying he should have signed the petition, and met with Jewish leaders to reassure them of his support for Israel.

The former governor of the state of New Hampshire has long been aware of the pitfalls of public pro-Arab stands. At a keynote address to the 1984 convention of National Association of Arab Americans, which adopted a resolution to stop aid to Israel, he exhorted the participants to engage in political activity

and mimic "the opposition." Without naming the powerful pro-Israel lobby, Sununu talked about "others with perspectives very different from us who have influenced the decision-making process in this country — the detriment of this nation's foreign policy."

Arab American leaders concede that Sununu was deliberately careful in his choice of words, a factor they said enabled him to get as far as the White House. Mitchell, whose mother was a Lebanese immigrant, has been just as careful. Mitchell's 1982 and 1988 Senate races were supported by Jewish voters in his home state of Maine. He has also been quietly involved in Arab causes such as the American task force on Lebanon, and Arab American organisations have lobbied for his Senate leadership selection.

The task force, in which Sununu was also active, is a non-political body composed of businessmen and politicians seeking to promote a peaceful solution to Lebanon's crisis and economic rehabilitation for the shattered country.

Other Arab Americans are also gaining political prominence. Mary Rose Oakar, an Ohio Congresswoman of Lebanese descent, is running for the chairmanship of the House Democratic Party caucus in January.

Dozens of Arab Americans have been chosen for federal, state and mayoral offices around the country. To name a few: Virginia's secretary of human services, Eva Sayegh Tieg; the mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, Tommy Hazzouri; Rhode Island state treasurer Anthony Solomon and Michael Baroudy, assistant secretary of labour in the Reagan administration.

"They're openly identifying themselves as Arab Americans," said Zogby, "whereas a few years ago they wouldn't have mentioned it at all."

Arab Americans' most notable past attempts to break into the political arena have been associated with strong views on the

Arab-Israeli conflict. In 1984, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the first black leader to make a serious run for the presidency, gave Arab Americans a prominent role in his campaign and championed one of their dearest causes — the creation of a Palestinian homeland.

Arab Americans to score political successes recently have come from the political mainstream rather than the fringe. Sununu is a conservative with impeccable Republican credentials. Mitchell is an integral part of the political and social establishment, often riding with Bush on his airplane from Washington to their homes in Maine.

In recent years, Arab Americans have also been organising in labour unions as an ethnic group: Yemenite longshoremen in the west coast port of Seattle, Lebanese Shiite autoworkers in Detroit and Syrian steelworkers in Pennsylvania.

They point with pride to such prominent Americans as Beverly Hills disc jockey Casey Kasem and consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

"There's a growing desire of Arab Americans to identify with their heritage," said Fays Boughafa, spokesman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, a civil rights and lobbying group.

For too long Arabs were "stereotyped and tainted in this country. Now we're pointing to our past with pride, teaching our children Arab," he said.

But in addition to providing a morale boost to the Arab American community, its leaders hope their newly found political successes will help change what they view as a skewed U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Sununu and Mitchell "will be less susceptible to the heavy-handed tactics" of the pro-Israel lobby, said Boughafa. And another Arab American, who preferred to remain anonymous, predicted that both men would "give better access to pro-Arab viewpoints."

King urges world action for Mideast peace

(Continued from page 1)

Referring to the almost one-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the King said: "The people of the West Bank and Gaza have acted no differently from any other self-respecting people seeking to liberate themselves from foreign occupation and colonisation. The harsher the Israeli repressive measures, the more determined the Arab people have become to attain their God-given right to live in freedom and human dignity."

Following are major excerpts from the King's address:

"We have been heartened by the recent steady improvement in international relations. There is a growing realisation that the way ahead lies in cooperation and compromise rather than in confrontation and polarisation. The fruits of this forward thinking are already apparent in various regional trouble spots such as Afghanistan, Angola, Central America and the Iran-Iraq war. We are greatly encouraged that solutions to these problems have either been reached or are in the process of being finally negotiated."

Eritrean front thanks Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

calls for a division of the remainder of Eritrea into three separate national regions," he said.

According to Ayai, the four factions of the Eritrean liberation movement — ELF United Organisation, ELF Revolutionary Council, ELF National Council, ELF Popular Liberation Forces — reject the proposal for two main reasons: it eliminates an important part of Eritrea (Danakalia province, considered strategic, being major part of the Eritrean coast on the Red Sea and overlooks Bab Al Mandeb); and it divides the Eritrean land and people — a factor which "suppresses the distinctive Eritrean identity."

"We consider the proposal put forward by Ethiopia as unpalatable because it is drawn up in a way that serves the interests of Ethiopia and... does not represent the minimum acceptable

"We are hopeful that the international community will continue to press ahead along the constructive path of defusing regional conflicts. It will be an important contribution to making the world a safer and a better one."

"The remaining major regional conflict that urgently needs the attention of the international community lies in the region we live in."

"The international community has been clear on the requirements for the achievement of a just and durable solution to the conflict. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 were unanimously agreed as constituting the basis for such a solution. Essentially, they require Israel to withdraw from all the Arab territories it occupied in June 1967 in return for peace. They delineate rights and obligations with regard to both the Arabs and Israelis, so that the terms for peace are mutual and balanced."

"Since both resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Security Council of the United Nations, we are convinced that the only way to proceed is through the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East."

"The aim will be to agree on ways and means to implement, in full and in good faith, all the provisions of the resolutions, and to resolve the Palestinian problem and the Arab-

Israeli conflict in all its aspects. The presence of the permanent members of the Security Council is vital for the attainment of a comprehensive peace, as well as to provide the necessary security guarantees that will be needed for the proper implementation of the negotiated settlement."

"They are the authors of the resolutions. They have an interest and a moral responsibility to help all the parties to the conflict to attain an equitable settlement, thus diffusing one of the most volatile threats to global peace."

"Since the Palestinian problem lies at the core of this conflict, the Palestinians must be directly involved in resolving the problem. Palestinian legitimate rights must be addressed and accommodated. The Palestinian people should be given the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination on Palestinian soil currently under Israeli occupation."

"We, in Jordan, have worked hard and long for peace. I was personally involved in the deliberations preceding the adoption of Security Council Resolution 242. I was assured by the American administration at that time that it would be implemented within six months. We have persevered in our efforts to have the resolution implemented ever since."

"Since Israel was clearly bent on ignoring the Palestinian dimension of the conflict, we decided, last July, to disengage ourselves from the legal and administrative association which we had had with the occupied West Bank for the last 38 years."

"Our decision, which was consistent with expressed Arab and Palestinian wishes, was primarily aimed at bringing about the universal recognition of the fact that the Palestinian problem is the root cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel must be persuaded to recognise this fact and reappraise its policies which have only brought it and the entire region tragic wars and continued strife. The peace and security it professed to seek have eluded it because Israel denied the peoples of the region the very same rights it sought for itself."

"We believe that the international community is called upon to prevail on that country to recognise that its approach to the problem is neither feasible nor tenable. If its military strength has rendered disdainful of the basic truths that others have legitimate concerns and rightful aspirations which are to be recognised and accommodated, the world surely has the responsibility of impressing on Israel that it will not tolerate a situation that has a potentially destructive effect on regional, and indeed, international stability."

"It is a situation rendered more untenable with each passing day. Not only has Israel frustrated all efforts

aimed at attaining a just and durable peace. It has vastly escalated the arms race in the region. Israel has developed and stock-piled a nuclear arsenal which threatens the entire area, and has recently introduced space satellite technology as a further element of confrontation. It is not surprising then, that the Arab countries have been actively seeking means to redress the imbalance."

"The Arab World is on record as ready and willing to make its contribution for the cause of peace, the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is shouldering its responsibilities to arrive at a true and just peace. The Palestinians have demonstrated their willingness to join in a historic reconciliation between Arabs and Israelis."

"The Palestinian people have shouldered their responsibilities, supported by the efforts of Jordan and the Arab states. We believe that it is Israel's turn to reciprocate this historic step and yearning for peace."

"We believe that the international community and people of goodwill everywhere are called upon to impress on Israel the need to heed the call of reason and peace. We hope that you will also support and assist our efforts in this worthy endeavour for our efforts have always been, and will always be, dedicated to a better future for the coming generations."

"The King is currently on a working visit to Britain. During his stay there, he is expected to hold talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other senior British officials on the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and prospects for peace in the Middle East."

LETTERS

Domestic cause

To the Editor:

"RUMOURS" have it that the work permit for foreign labourers will become JD 500 per annum as of next year, and who knows what will come next.

As the country is trying to fight and find solutions for problems, a very important one is the question of "housemaids from overseas". The government has all the right to take any step it wishes to protect the interest of the country, but at the same time it should offer alternatives.

Not all of us women of Jordan employ housemaids for the pleasure of being free to go to morning coffee, but many of us hold jobs and have also to entertain

and go out at night for the benefit of our jobs. Thus the most important part of needing a housemaid is baby-sitting for those of us who have small children.

A suggested idea would be to open an "Employment Bureau" for hired help; it should be established by the government with set wages for full time, part time or just for baby sitting (day or night).

Work is no shame and as the saying goes in French "Il n'y a pas de soi-matier". But people in Jordan don't go for house work because this is not regulated and no protection by the government is guaranteed.

I am sure that if the government opened an employment

bureau in every district it would see the success this would have and the work it would generate for local citizens. Hired helpers will feel secure that they will be getting their rightful dues and Jordanian women will feel very happy indeed to be able at last to bring up their children by women from the same background and not subject our children to different cultures every few years as has been the case so far.

I hope and pray my idea would appeal to the government and very soon we'll see "Hired Help Employment Bureau" mushrooming all over Jordan.

Mrs. N.S. Khoury
Amman.

Mineral content in honey focus of study

Cinema

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مکتبہ اسلامیہ

EC pledges no 'fortress Europe'

RHODES, Greece (R) — European Community (EC) leaders called Saturday for closer links with East Bloc countries and promised the United States, Japan, and the Third World that they would not create a protectionist "fortress Europe."

The leaders ended a two-day summit on the Greek island of Rhodes, where the friendly atmosphere failed to disguise deep differences on Middle East policy and on the EC's plans to weld its 12 economies into a giant single market after 1992.

But they did agree a joint declaration on policy towards the rest of the world up to and after 1992 which sought to allay fears voiced in the United States and elsewhere that the new EC will be a protectionist bloc.

"1992 Europe will be a partner and not a 'fortress Europe'," it said.

On East-West relations the statement said: "The European Council (summit) reaffirms its determination to act with renewed hope to overcome the division of our continent and to promote the Western values and principles which (EC) member states have in common," it added.

The statement referred specifically to the importance of EC relations with Japan and the United States, the other economic superpowers. And it said the summit recognised the need to help solve the Third World debt crisis.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany predicted that EC summits in Madrid next June and in Paris a year from now would be much tougher than the Rhodes meeting.

Arguments over harmonising EC taxes, monetary and social policy will come to a head next year.

"It's clear to everybody discussions at the Madrid and Paris summits will not be as relaxed as this one," Kohl told a news conference.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told a news conference that she signalled an impending clash with President François Mitterrand over France's insistence that EC tax treatment of investment income

was a priority for next year. "It is not a view which many of us share," Thatcher said, recalling that Britain had abolished its controls in 1979.

"I don't regard Community decisions on tax rates as necessary to complete the internal market," she noted.

Mitterrand told a separate news conference that France regarded measures to harmonise tax treatment of savings — perhaps through an EC-wide

withholding tax on investment income — as part of the agreement to end exchange controls, although there is no legally-binding link between the two.

"When you apply an accord, you apply it in its entirety," he said.

Thatcher also repeated that the fight against terrorism, crime and drug traffickers meant that the Community could not abolish all its border controls after 1992 if there were no effective alternative controls.

Survey estimates OPEC's oil output at 22.55m barrels a day

LONDON (R) — OPEC's average crude oil production in November is estimated at 22.55 million barrels daily, up from the previous month's 21.7 million and four million barrels higher than the oil group's 1989 target, a Reuters survey shows.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) oil ministers Monday signed an agreement in Vienna to limit total output to 18.5 million barrels daily in the first half of 1989.

Several have since said output will decline before the agreement comes into force Jan. 1.

The November rise was mainly due to a 650,000 barrels daily increase in Saudi Arabian output from October to an estimated 6.5 million. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) pumped 100,000

more at 2.0 million barrels daily. OPEC President Riwanu Lukman said there would be a "gradual reduction" in total OPEC output throughout December to reach the new agreement's target of 18.5 million barrels daily in January.

Saudi Minister Hisham Nazer told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) newsletter last week: "There will be a concerted effort on the part of all members to try to minimise overproduction in December, short of getting into legal problems with customers."

The Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said his country would halt spot crude sales in December, although existing contracts would be honoured.

"There is always the normal additional spot sales during the month. These would not be pursued but contracts already signed will be honoured," he said.

At 6.5 million barrels daily, Saudi Arabia's November average was running more than two million barrels above its official 4.343 million barrels daily OPEC production quota. Riyadh is widely believed to have exceeded its own limit in recent months to force other OPEC members to curb persistently high output, stick to quotas and boost spot prices.

In early October, a Saudi cabinet statement said the kingdom would "not freeze its production while others increase."

Alfonsin decries debt of developing nations

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Argentine President Raul Alfonsin said Friday that if developed nations want to encourage democracy in Latin America, they ought to provide debt relief, so new democracies are not overthrown by tyrants.

"Unsatisfied expectations generate desperation, which always favours the adventures of the authoritarians. Time and time again we have told them that they shall not pass," he declared, calling on the developed nations to aid fragile Latin American democ-

cracies with debt relief.

Alfonsin told the General Assembly that worldwide economic "interdependence has turned the planet into a ship, in which some societies travel first class."

"But that privilege would be of little use if there is a bomb hidden below. We must defuse the bomb not only because it is a matter of justice, but also because it is in the concrete interest of everyone to do so," said Alfonsin.

Alfonsin's analogy referred to the enormous debt of the developing world, which was esti-

mated at \$1.2 trillion at the end of 1987.

He did not offer any specific remedies for restructuring the debt, but said the developing nations and the rich ones must find a solution as a matter of justice and for practical reasons.

Alfonsin said a solution "will not imply shunning any of our own responsibilities or our national economic disciplines," but would involve bringing into economic talks the same spirit of cooperation exemplified by the recent U.S.-Soviet overtures.

OECD urges U.K. to halt decline in aid to poor states

PARIS (R) — Britain should give more aid to the Third World and reverse a decline in its aid programme, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Friday.

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee said in a statement that it had urged Britain to change its aid policy "in view of the urgent aid needs of many low-income countries in Africa and Asia."

It stated: "The committee firmly believes that the time has come to reverse the downward trend."

The statement, which follows a meeting Thursday to examine British aid, added that the volume of British aid had declined in real terms during much of the 1980s and was now "considerably below average."

Britain, as a member of the aid committee of the OECD, a 24-nation economic think-tank, is committed to giving 0.7 per cent of its gross national product (GNP) in development assistance aid, the statement said.

But British aid fell to 0.28 per cent in 1987 from 0.31 in 1986. Britain paid out a cash total of £1.138 billion (\$1.865 billion) in 1987.

The committee said Britain planned to increase its aid by 18 per cent in cash terms over the next three years. But it said this might not be enough to stop the decline in aid as a proportion of GNP.

S. Korea announces capital market opening to foreigners

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea announced Friday a four-year plan for opening its securities market to direct foreign investment in 1992.

The plan also allows Koreans to invest in foreign stocks in 1992 to take advantage of the country's bulging current account surplus.

Because of fears of foreign domination of the market, the government now bans direct foreign investment in the capital market, although foreigners are allowed to make indirect investment through overseas Korea funds, beneficiary certificates and convertible bonds.

Officials said the government believes that the South Korean economy will develop enough strength by 1992 to be able to compete with foreign capital.

The finance ministry said foreign securities companies' equity shares in domestic securities companies will be doubled to 10 per cent in 1989 and that foreign securities companies will be allowed to open branches here and set up new joint venture securities firms with Koreans.

Also next year, the issuance of overseas securities will be expanded and diversified to add bonds with warrant and depositary receipts, the ministry said.

The plan also calls for the establishment in 1990 of a match-

ing fund which will sell beneficiary certificates simultaneously at home and abroad to invest proceeds from the sales in domestic and foreign stocks.

The ministry said foreigners possessing Korean convertible bonds, after exchanging them for stocks, will be allowed to sell their shares here in 1990 to reinvest in other Korean stocks.

The ministry officials said there will be ceilings on the amounts of stocks in which foreign investors can invest. The amounts were not specified.

They said the government targeted the opening of the securities market for direct foreign investment for 1992 in a belief that the South Korean economy would have developed strong enough by then to be able to compete with foreign capital.

The ministry noted South

Korea now enjoys substantial current account surpluses on strong exports and is liberalising its trade, bank interest rates and foreign exchange rates to meet international standards.

The moves come amid foreign pressure on South Korea to open up its capital market. The gradual opening of the securities market is intended to minimise possible foreign impact on the South Korean economy and stock market, which officials said is still limited.

There are 496 companies currently listed on the Seoul Stock Exchange with a combined market value of their stocks estimated at \$7.69 trillion won (\$84 billion), officials said.

They said Korean securities issued abroad reached \$445 million in face value, including the Korea funds.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday Dec. 3, 1988

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	383.6	385.5
U.S. dollar	465.0	467.0	Dutch guilder	238.4	239.6
Pound Sterling	867.9	872.2	Swedish crown	77.5	77.9
Deutschemark	270.0	271.4	Italian lira (for 100)	36.5	36.7
Swiss franc	322.7	324.3	Belgian franc (for 100)	128.9	129.5
French franc	79.0	79.4			

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Nov. 26, '88 and ending Wednesday Nov. 30, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	1750	2820	1.600	1.610	1.000
Petra Bank	2800	6293	2.300	2.240	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	7005	13081	1.850	1.890	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	16067	24418	1.500	1.500	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	11316	14038	1.240	1.250	1.000
Housing Bank	4750	9137	1.920	1.910	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	176	5104	30.000	29.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	54712	834698	15.670	15.750	5.000
Arab Bank	4535	627101	138.980	136.750	10.000
Jordan National Bank	16058	43519	2.710	2.720	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	208250	275928	1.300	1.310	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	22478	47795	2.390	2.370	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	57025	33230	0.560	0.560	1.000
National Financial Investments	1700	3863	2.290	2.350	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	109766	92916	0.810	0.840	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	43775	106428	2.360	2.410	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	10591	8630	0.830	0.850	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	19617	102883	5.150	5.250	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	50	52	1.070	1.030	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	4500	4555	1.030	1.030	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	401	431	1.040	1.050	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
National Ahilya Insurance	751	991	1.330	1.320	1.000
Arab Belge Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	9500	10970	1.160	1.150	1.000
Universal Insurance	11400	8175	0.740	0.700	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	5216	3338	0.650	0.640	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	22391	13555	0.610	0.600	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqar)	36406	18568	0.520	0.520	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	11590	3620	0.330	0.310	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	135	71	0.560	0.530	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	12451	2369	0.690	0.710	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajero	40000	10800	0.800	0.770	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	31065	35934	1.750	1.710	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	1225	1229	0.900	1.050	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	2477	11136	4.500	4.500	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	15300	14451	0.940	0.960	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	100	200	2.000	2.000	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	75815	47395	0.640	0.620	1.000
Jordan Dairy	24160	25294	1.060	1.040	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	16650	39223	2.340	2.350	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	47976	65794	1.380	1.370	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	6016	22805	3.760	3.830	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Total)	47165	63774	1.340	1.320	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	81	361	4.350	4.350	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	40900	55585	1.360	1.360	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	61154	122210	1.990	2.020	1.000
Jordan Worsted Mills	3000	14340	4.800	4.780	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	8720	13856	1.610	1.610	1.000
Chemical Industries	25649	44685	1.960	1.970	1.000
Jordan Industries and Manufacturing (JIMCO)	13850	9931	0.730	0.710	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	9385	20357	2.220	2.160	1.000
National Steel Industries	199907	581796	2.900	2.930	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	69434	135924	1.990	1.950	5.000
General Mining	78	117	1.450	1.500	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4915	41780	8.520	8.500	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	69225	15507	0.230	0.220	1.000
National Industries	28050	12924	0.480	0.450	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	11500	3745	0.320	0.330	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	21828	35230	1.640	1.620	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	5010	3607	0.730	0.720	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	27654	41326	1.490	1.490	1.000
Rafiah Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	166	596	3.700	3.600	1.000
Jordan Rockwell Industries	17890	15279	0.850	0.850	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Hinch Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	800	640	0.840	0.800	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	10	160	15.250	16.000	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	46501	51344	1.120	1.100	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	66552	63284	0.840	0.950	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	41810	108769	2.840	2.870	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	262000	357603	1.350	1.320	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	17310	17631	1.010	1.010	1.000
Grand total	2,055,824	4,424,395			

World labour body finds thriving second job economy in East Bloc

GENEVA (R) — Six out of 10 Hungarian workers have second jobs or work privately on their own, and in Soviet cities the figure is estimated at four in 10, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Friday.

East European communist authorities who hitherto ignored or persecuted people in "black" enterprises now realise the unofficial secondary economy is here to stay and grow, the ILO Information periodical publication said in its December issue.

"I quoted Lajos Hethy, director of the Hungarian Institute of Labour Research, as saying that as the Soviet concept of perestroika (economic restructuring) gained ground, officials realised that it was better to turn "black" workers into officially accepted

"entrepreneurs." Hethy said the secondary economy thrived on shortages and was mushrooming where the need was most acute — in agriculture, housing, retail trade and services.

He said the total turnover of the unofficial economy in the Soviet Union was estimated at \$145 billion a year. In Poland 2.8 million private farms covered four-fifths of cultivated land.

Construction of privately built accommodation ranged from 10 to 30 per cent in most communist countries, but accounted for 86 per cent in Hungary last year, he added.

"Private retail trade and catering are increasingly present everywhere. Inadequacies in the education system open up wide

possibilities for teachers giving private lessons, particularly in foreign languages and in preparation for university entrance examinations. Private medical practices are legal in several countries," he noted.

Hethy said this trend contradicted accepted values in communist states by setting individualism, decentralisation and market forces against collectivism, centralisation and planning.

But it would be misleading to view this as a move towards privatisation and entrepreneurship in the way these notions were understood in the West.

"What we witness here is an attempt to regulate the secondary economy since it is quite clear that the ostrich policy of the past

will not do at a time of economic reforms," he said.

A separate article said an ILO consultant had helped in reviving Soviet consumer cooperatives whose operations had flagged in recent years.

By last summer about half a million workers were engaged in 34,000 Soviet cooperatives producing consumer goods and offering services ranging from tourism to dog manicures, the ILO said.

Consultant Dionysos Mavrogianis helped draft a cooperatives law adopted last May.

Iraq assures safety of international games

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq, banned from hosting international soccer matches during the Gulf war, is ready to guarantee the safety of players playing here, a senior Iraqi official said Saturday.

The major sport daily, Al Ba'ath Al-Riyadhi, said Saturday that FIFA, as the World Soccer Association is known, asked both Iran and Iraq for such guarantees before it permits international football matches to resume in the two countries.

FIFA imposed the ban at the start of the 8-year war, citing the

hostilities as a major threat to the players.

A senior member of the Iraqi Football Federation said that Iraq which assure FIFA that it can to guarantee the safety of all players at matches in Baghdad.

"We have always told the FIFA that we would guarantee the safety of all guest players during matches to be held here," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iraq will start next month its first matches in the run for the World Cup in Italy in 1990.



Bright prospects: The Iraqi football team, one of the major challengers for this year's Asian Cup, have now had home international matches secured by government assurances to FIFA.

Leaders Norwich lose to Villa

LONDON (R) — Leaders Norwich and high-riding Millwall slumped to only their second defeats of the season Saturday as top challengers Arsenal and Liverpool prospered without joining the action.

Norwich crashed 3-1 at Aston Villa while Millwall conceded their first home defeat at the hands of fellow Londoners West Ham, who took all the points thanks to a first half strike by Paul Ince.

Norwich stayed top with 29 points from 14 matches, but Arsenal could envisage the chance of overtaking them on goal difference if they beat Liverpool Sunday.

Norwich had won five of their six previous away encounters in the league and Villa had lost their last three league games, but two goals from Kevin Gage and one from David Platt overturned the form book.

Ince, who scored twice in West Ham's 4-1 League Cup win over Liverpool on Wednesday, maintained his sharp-shooting form, driving home in the 18th minute after Millwall goalkeeper Brian Horne had blocked a shot from Alan Dickens.

Arsenal and Liverpool did well to stay out of the Saturday action because the four other clubs in the top six all lost.

While Norwich and Millwall faltered, Coventry and Southampton, fifth and sixth overnight, each lost 2-1 away, beaten respectively by Queen's Park Rangers and Wimbledon.

Millwall remained in third place, five points behind Norwich, while West Ham, their conquerors, were still on the foot of the table despite their morale-boosting win.

In a dramatic encounter at the other end of London, Queen's Park Rangers inflicted a 2-1 defeat on Coventry, who had defender Trevor Peake sent off on the hour or a foul on Wayne Fereday.

QPR were already 2-0 up at that stage after former England forward Trevor Francis had net-

ted his seventh goal of the season in the 42nd minute and helped set up the second for Mark Falco in the 58th.

Coventry, down to 10 men, battled back and reduced the arrears when David Speedie, pouncing on a poor goal-kick, drove the ball back past goalkeeper David Seaman in the 77th minute.

Earlier QPR had lost England defender Paul Parker, who was stretchered off three minutes before Falco scored their second goal.

Two players were sent off in the Second Division clash between Stoke and Chelsea — Chelsea's Welsh international defender Peter Nicholas departing in the fifth minute for head-butting Simon Stainrod and Stainrod himself dismissed in the 57th minute for his second bookable offence. Chelsea, unabashed by the early expulsion, won 3-0.

United's winning ways

Manchester United rediscovered winning ways after eight draws in their last nine winless league games, compounding the problems of struggling Charlton with a 3-0 victory at Old Trafford.

Ralph Milne opened the United tally midway through the first half, fellow Scot Brian McClair added the second 10 minutes after the interval and Welsh goal of the season to complete the scoring in the 78th minute.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wilander threatens Davis Cup boycott over TV ban

STOCKHOLM (R) — World number one Mats Wilander Friday threatened to boycott this month's Davis Cup final against West Germany if Swedish television failed to provide domestic coverage because of anti-apartheid pressures. Sweden's independent broadcasting council Thursday rebuked the state-chartered TV network for screening the Davis Cup semifinal against a French team which included members on the U.N. blacklist of players who have competed in South Africa. Domestic coverage of the final in Gothenburg from December.

Neck breaking win for broken neck Bin Sulayem

DUBAI (AP) — Mohammed Bin Sulayem Friday cruised to his third successive Middle East rally championship with an easy victory in front of his home crowd in the Emirates Dubai International Rally, the final stage of the 1988 regional series. Sulayem's nearest rival, Saeed Al-Hajri of Qatar, failed in his bid to snatch the championship crown he almost claimed this year, after losing a commanding lead during the first day of the two-day event. An electrical failure halted his Audi Quattro. Al Hajri dropped 12 places down the field. Despite brilliant driving throughout the second day which saw him claw back to sixth

place, he was not able to threaten Sulayem in the Emirates-supported Toyota Celica Turbo. Irish navigator Ronan Morgan was alongside Sulayem, who is a national of the United Arab Emirates. Sulayem's drove with his neck in a plaster cast less than two months after breaking a vertebrae in a road accident. "I couldn't give 100 per cent because my movement was limited," he said. "But I'm very pleased to win the Dubai rally again. It means a lot to me."

Swimmer's lost Olympic medals are replaced

LOUISVILLE (AP) — U.S. swimmer Mary T. Meagher received an early Christmas present this week: replacements for the two Olympic gold medals lost last summer after they were put in the mail. Bud Tyler, a gray-bearded representative of the U.S. Postal Service's consumer-affairs department in Washington, D.C., presented the new medals to Meagher Thursday. "They look like the real thing," Meagher, 24, said of the medals. "I'm really glad to have them again." They mean so much to me, not just the amount of work I put in, but they represent the efforts of all the people who got me to the Olympics." The original medals were lost after being sent air mail by her parents from Louisville to Boca Raton, Florida, where Meagher was attending a meet. She was to be photographed later in the week in Minneapolis as a promotion for Wheaties breakfast cereal and has asked to bring the medals.

Snow finally arrives at World Cup

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — After days of uncertainty about the weather conditions, the snow finally came to this winter French resort. But there was nothing doubtful about the winner of the Women's first downhill World Cup race of the season. Michela Figini, the Swiss speedster who has made a habit of flashing down a mountainside faster than the rest, took the race Friday in convincing fashion. It brought memories of the way she dominated the downhill the last few years. The defending World Cup overall champion went through a steady snowfall to gain her 20th World Cup victory and 11th of her career. Figini, 22, won the 1984 Olympic and 1985 world title in the event. Last year, she took three of the eight downhill races on the circuit as well as taking her second overall crown. Her victory Friday on the famed Oreiller-Killy course was the fourth straight for Swiss skiers this season since France's Carole Merle took the opening Women's Super Grand Slalom.

Men's Tennis Council plans 1990 tour

NEW YORK (AP) — The men's tennis council Thursday announced plans for a restructured 1990 tour designed to keep stars from defecting to a new player-run circuit. "We're hopeful that when the players look at this, they'll say it makes sense," MTC administrator Marshall Happer said. "I think we can all do better by working together." The ATP has been battling for control of the sport with the Men's council which has governed the Grand Prix tour since 1974. The council announced its plan during the masters tournament at Madison Square Garden. The proposal includes many of the changes the players have been lobbying for, including: Increasing the players' representation on the council from 33 per cent to 50 per cent; Creating a new "mini-grand slam" made up of 14 one-million-dollar tournaments; Offering a total of 3.9 million dollars in signing bonuses to players who commit to the tour; Establishing a two-month off-season between the Masters and the Australian Open.

...but professionals persist with counter plans

NEW YORK (R) — The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Friday revealed its plans for a new global men's tour in 1990 that would shorten the current schedule and give players greater control over the circuit.

ATP Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Hamilton Jordan outlined the plan that would mean a breakaway from the men's Tennis council (MTC) which has ruled the tour since 1974. "This is a partnership between the best tournaments in the world and the best players in the world," Jordan told a packed press conference. "We're going ahead — this is it," he said, with top-10 players Mats Wilander, Boris Becker, Andre Agassi, Stefan Edberg, Jakob Hlasek, Tim Mayotte and Henri Leconte seated next to the podium to show support. Features of the new tour included an off-season of about eight weeks, a reorganization of the schedule to make better travel sense, and a one-week buffer before and after every Grand Slam championship and Davis Cup week. The circuit would be administered by an ATP tour policy board made up of four player representatives, four tournament directors and a CEO chosen by the other eight board members who votes only in case of a tie.

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Ivan Lendl, capitalising on his only service break, rallied from the brink of elimination to beat Andre Agassi 1-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 Friday night and keep alive his bid for a fourth straight Masters title.

Lendl was four points away from losing the match when he fell behind 3-1 in the tiebreaker. But he fought back for a victory that forces a mad scramble for the semifinal berths in the round-robin tournament.

"I think I bring out the best in his game," said Agassi, who is now 0-3 lifetime against Lendl. "He doesn't want to get beat by me."

"Today I was lucky to win the match," said Lendl, who acknowledged he is still feeling his way back into top form.

"Even though I'm hitting the ball well it's extremely frustrating out there, it's going to take time," he said. "I don't know if this will be the final straw to turn it around or not."

Lendl came out on top even though Agassi won more points and more games. In fact, Lendl didn't have a single break point until the sixth game of the final set, which he won to take a 4-2 lead.

If Lendl had lost, he would have been eliminated from title contention and Agassi would have clinched a semifinal spot with one round-robin match remaining.

Now, all eight players in the season-ending tournament have a chance to make the semifinals heading into the final day of round-robin competition.

Lendl, Agassi, Mats Wilander, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Henri Leconte all have 1-1 records, while Jakob Hlasek is 2-0 and Tim Mayotte is 0-2.

Hlasek defeated Mayotte 7-5, 6-3 in the opening match Friday night. Becker met Leconte in the late match.

Agassi played with machine-like precision in the first set, making only three unforced

The Syrians held their own for the first 20 minutes before a remarkable 30-yard goal by Saleh Al Mutaq surprised everyone, including his teammates, and set the Saudis on course for victory.

The game should then have come alive but settled into a dull midfield struggle as the Saudis

battled to keep the upper hand. The sought-after second goal came from a corner. The ball seemed to be bouncing harmlessly away when Mohammed Al Suwayid popped up from nowhere to tuck it in the back of the net. Iran beat Qatar 2-0 in the opening match Friday.

Soviets vying to fill gap at tournament

MELBOURNE (AP) — The Soviet Union, a rising tennis force, will be vying for its first win when the Women's Federation Cup starts Sunday. Despite the absence of most of the world's top players, a total of 37 nations will compete in the week-long teams event, to be staged at the National Tennis Center, site of the Australian Open. World No. 1 Steffi Graf is passing the 26th staging of the cup, saying she's too tired after her highly successful year, which included winning the Grand Slam and an Olympic gold medal. Also missing the tournament will be No. 2 Martina Navratilova, Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini, U.S. players Chris Evert and Pam Shriver and Bulgaria's Maleeva sisters, Manuela and Katerina. But even without the big tennis names, the competition is important to Moscow, said team coach Olga Morozova, a Wimbledon finalist in 1974. "Everyone at home will follow the results and the girls are proud to represent their countries in such events," Morozova said.

Soviet Pair wins world junior title

SARAJEVO (AP) — Evgenia Chernyshova and Dmitri Sukhanov of the Soviet Union won the pairs figure skating gold medal Wednesday night at the Junior World Championships. East Germany's Angela Casper and Marno Kreft finished second. Another Soviet pair, Irina Saifutdinova and Aleksei Tikhonov, came in third among nine pairs that competed.

Lendl's 'true grit' win stiffens contest

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Agassi played with machine-like precision in the first set, making only three unforced

errors even though he was blasting the ball on almost every shot. "But Lendl found his rhythm in the second set and started winning his share of the baseline rallies that both players prefer."

Agassi, who has rocketed to no. 3 in the world this year, had three break points in the fourth game but Lendl saved them all and held with a service winner and an ace.

Lendl showed his resilience again in the tiebreaker when he rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win the set. He closed out his six-point run with an ace, one of 12 he served in the match.

Hlasek, who upset Lendl Thursday night, continued his recent hot streak by beating Mayotte in 67 minutes.

"I came in here with nothing to lose," but I had a lot of confidence," Hlasek said. "I think the other players are more scared of me than I am of them."

The Swiss star raced to a 3-0 lead in the first set, but Mayotte broke back in the fifth game and

they remained on serve until the final game, which Hlasek won with a perfectly placed lob.

Hlasek got the only break of the last set when Mayotte double-faulted to lose the second game.

"I think the key to the match was Tim was playing up and down and I was playing consistently," said Hlasek, who had split his two previous matches against Mayotte.

Hlasek, a fast-rising star in tennis, said he was looking forward to the challenge of playing against Agassi, whose six tournament titles this year earned him the honour of most improved player.

"Agassi is the newcomer of the year and ranked third in the world and I had a great finish," said the handsome Swiss whose two tournament victories and one runner-up finish over the last three weeks have made him eighth in the world.

"The two hottest players on the tour — it's going to be a great match."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

FIND THE LOGICAL LEAD

East-West vulnerable. South killing lead.

Let's consider South's actions. He jumped to six spades, so you can presume that he is bidding it to make. His redouble confirms your suspicion. Since you are looking at the ace of trumps, it is not unreasonable to assume that South figures he must lose that card. Therefore, he cannot be looking at a red-suit loser has well.

It seems that Charlie G. the American Contract Bridge League's trusty computer, has dealt South 13 black cards. His shape is probably 6-0-0-7, but possibly 5-0-0-8. Where are you going to get the setting trick?

Since you can account for ten or 11 clubs, your best hope is that partner is void in the suit, or has a singleton and two trumps. So lead a club! If partner does not ruff, lead another club when in with the ace of spades, and hope for the best. Don't lead the ace of trumps to take a look at dummy! That will present declarer with the contract in the event that partner has a singleton club, because declarer will be able to draw trumps. As you can see, your sterling analysis beats the contract one trick. At the table, Gerald Caravelli of Des Plaines, Ill., did indeed find the club lead to defeat the slam.

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 ♥ DBL 4 ♥

6 ♠ DBL Pass Pass

Rebid Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

To appreciate this hand, cover everything except the West cards. Imagine you are in the final of one of the most important team events in the U.S., where this hand actually appeared. The result of your match could well be determined by your choice of opening lead.

For your information, North's double was "negative," i.e., a take-out for the unbid suits. From the bidding, you should be able to draw the inference you need to find the

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"When we're not on speaking terms, I just bang out my messages in Morse Code."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

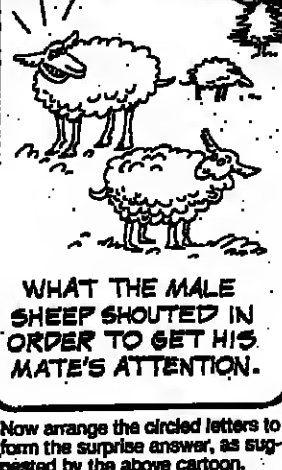
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VUCER

HERBT

ZEEMYN

RAWHOR



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O, O O O O"

Yesterday's Jumble: BEGUN, JADE, SKEWER NICELY

Answer: What a green thumb can mean for a professional gardener — "GREENBACKS"

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Exciting relationships may experience new beginnings. Exotic adventure may be experienced. Insecurity and jealousy can surface where not expected. It is a day of tearing down and rebuilding through emotions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) The pace picks up after a slow start. It is easy to talk with people. Keep a parenting problem in check with firm and reasonable rules.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Household and family matters are tricky. Show your love, and avoid serious discussions. Open your home to friends, and entertain.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You handle young people who challenge you. Enjoy your favorite amusements. Take time in the evening to plan your week.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Make plans to improve the quality of life. In spite of a change of heart, keep the promises you have previously made to others.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Catch up on personal matters. Work on organization and improving your environment. Reflect on educational and financial matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have both feet on the ground today.

A lot can be accomplished. Discuss your future plans with your mate. Let things entertain you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can find better ways to handle responsibilities. Put plans for income protection in force. Avoid a drain on your finances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can carry out your own destiny. A family member will cooperate if you make your desires known. Beware of lack of direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are disturbed by the way in which someone else is running his or her life. The expectations of others are causing friction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Trust your hunches, and let events occur freely. Be speculative, and abandon long-fisted routines. Ease up on yourself and others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A phone call may save a boring day. Let friends enter your environment. Entertain, but go easy, and get the rest which you need.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't make hasty decisions in the morning. Plans may change. You are sensitive, sensual, creative and in a good mood. Let things happen.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Bhutto declares prisoner amnesty

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced an amnesty for political and other prisoners Saturday and pledged to maintain Pakistan's policy towards war-torn Afghanistan.

Bhutto, holding her first news conference since being sworn in as prime minister Friday, also announced plans for a new narcotics ministry and said she would name her cabinet later Saturday.

Bhutto, 35, said she wanted to retain veteran Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and she named a young Lahore lawyer, Altaf Ahsan, as law minister.

Yaqub Khan, 66, was appointed foreign minister in 1982 by Bhutto's father, military president Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq who was killed in a plane crash in August.

A former army general who speaks several languages, he has steered clear of any overtly political role and is widely respected in and outside Pakistan.

Bhutto said it was up to the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance, to which Yaqub Khan belongs, to permit him to stay on.

The news conference was held at the prime minister's secretariat near Islamabad, a few hundred metres from the jail where Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was hanged in 1979 on Zia's orders.

The amnesty she announced

commuted all death sentences to life imprisonment, freed all women prisoners except those convicted of murder and quashed many categories of sentence handed down by Zia's military courts.

Ahsan said about 1,000 people would be released and several thousand would have their terms reduced.

Martial law sentences handed down in absentia were quashed, although defendants would have to face trial on any substantive charges. This would affect Bhutto's exiled brother Murtaza, sentenced in absentia in connection with a plane hijack in 1981.

Bhutto, the first woman elected to govern a Muslim country, stressed repeatedly that her government would seek continuity in its policy towards Afghanistan and looked forward to the end of the Soviet troop withdrawal next February.

"We hope that a representative government there will provide stability so that three million refugees who are on Pakistani soil go back to their own country," she said. "For us the refugee question is very important."

Pakistan is host to Afghanistan's anti-communist rebels, who were due to begin their first substantive peace negotiations with the Soviet Union in Saudi Arabia this weekend.

Bhutto also reiterated that she wanted closer relations with the United States, saying: "We have appreciated their moral support for the restoration of democracy."

She said she gave top priority to tackling the drugs question. "It is a question of the youth of Pakistan, I have seen families destroyed by narcotics."

The wild mountain areas on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier are one of the world's main sources of heroin and Pakistan has one of the highest addiction levels.

On the economic front, Bhutto said she had not yet had time to study an International Monetary Fund (IMF) restructuring facility worth some \$800 million negotiated by the outgoing government.

One option was to try to delay the deal until June, she said. "Alternatively, as our hands and feet have already been bound, let this be the last legacy of the last regime."

Alfonsin confronts military rebellion

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — President Raul Alfonsin returned home Saturday to confront a military rebellion by more than 400 heavily-armed troops surrounded by loyal forces at a giant military base.

Although the government said late Friday night that the uprising had been overcome, spokesmen for rebel leader Colonel Mohammad Ali Schneidman insisted that the rebels had agreed on a truce but had not surrendered.

Alfonsin returned at 10:31 a.m. (1231 GMT) from a three-day trip to Mexico and the United States. He was flown by helicopter to government house in downtown Buenos Aires to confer with military leaders and cabinet members.

At sprawling Camp de Mayo army base on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, talks continued between Schneidman and General

Francisco Gassino, commander of loyal forces who surrounded the rebels at the infantry school.

Roman Catholic Priest Luis Jardim, who claimed to be a personal friend of Schneidman, left the infantry school early Saturday and told the private news agency Noticias Argentinas that "a trace of several days" had been agreed upon by the rebels and army chief of staff Gen. Jose Carloli.

"Schneidman has not surrendered nor does he intend to," said Jardim.

The army announced in a communique that cashiered Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, who led two similar revolts in April 1987 and January 1988, had been transferred from a military prison at Magdalena, 110 kilometres southeast of the capital, to a military unit.

Police shoo away the right man

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP) — Police answering a report that a man was holding his girlfriend hostage mistakenly surrounded the house next door, then shooed the man away when he tried to surrender, police and witnesses said.

"I didn't know what was coming down," said the man, Jessie Cobb, 37. "I came out and they started cussing me and told me to go back inside. I thought they were going to pull a 'Rambo' on me."

Both he and his girlfriend, Joyce Gaines, said later that the incident was an argument that had been blown out of proportion. She denied that she told police by telephone that Cobb had a knife, as police said later. No arrests were made. Police were called to the house Wednesday by a neighbour who said Cobb was holding Gaines there against her will. But because of a mixup, the police special operations team surrounded the house next door. When Cobb tried to surrender, officers frantically waived him back inside, thinking he was just a curious neighbour and telling him he was in danger.

Few anti-apartheid activists gain freedom

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Opposition newspaper editor Zwelakhe Sisulu emerged to a severely limited freedom Friday. His father Walter and generations of other black South African anti-apartheid campaigners remained in captivity.

Thank God, Albertina Sisulu said of her 37-year-old son's release after 730 days' detention without trial. "I am hoping for the release of other political prisoners."

Walter Sisulu, 76, has been in jail since his 1964 conviction with African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela for plotting to overthrow white rule. Albertina Sisulu has herself been placed under virtual house arrest.

Friends say Zwelakhe Sisulu left 180 detainees, mostly school students, in his section of Diepkloof jail near Soweto.

Law and Order Ministry officials said four or five other detainees were released Friday including Fric Molobi, national coordinator of the influential left-wing National Education Crisis Committee, who had been jailed for a year.

These releases prompted speculation that the government may speed up a gradual release of Mandela, 70. The authorities have said they will move him from a clinic where he is being treated for tuberculosis to a secure house and let his family join him.

However, they have placed such restrictions on ex-prisoners that Zwelakhe Sisulu asked a friend to tell a news conference: "He would have preferred to remain in detention rather than leave under these conditions."

Sisulu cannot speak to the press — still less resume running his paper, the Roman Catholic-sponsored New Nation.

He must report to police twice daily, keep a night curfew and refrain from most forms of political activity.

There was anti-apartheid protest Friday from 10 black councillors — accused by radicals of collaborating with Pretoria. They used a whites-only toilet and park in Boksburg near Johannesburg.

The far-right Conservative Party is relapsing such restrictions in Boksburg and about 60 other places where they won control in October's municipal elections.

Super-secrecy shrouds U.S. shuttle mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The Atlantis astronauts went about their secret business high above earth Saturday, unseen and unheard by all but ground controllers as they reportedly deployed a satellite huilt to spy on the Soviet Union.

There was total silence on the public space-to-ground radio link as the five military men began their second — and by all accounts, hushiest — day aloft in the space shuttle.

"The crew of Atlantis is going for orbit operations," was the last word from mission control in Houston, and that came four hours after Friday's launch.

The announcement meant the spaceship's cargo bay doors were open and the task of preparing the satellite for deployment could begin.

Earlier, the U.S. Space Agency waited out the same kind of fierce, high-altitude winds that postponed the flight Thursday, but found a momentary calm and launched Atlantis from Kennedy Space Centre at 9:30 a.m. (1430 GMT), less than 90 seconds before the end of the three-hour launch window.

"Very clean, by the numbers," mission commentator Brian Welch in Houston said after liftoff. "The vehicle is in very clean shape. There are no systems problems whatsoever to report."

The air force, which has total command over the mission, has not announced the cargo and is equally silent on when the shuttle will land. The only announcement expected is a 24-hour notice that Atlantis will return to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Only military men are aboard Atlantis, serving under navy Commander Robert L. Gibson, the commander.

If pre-flight reports were correct, mission specialist Colonel Richard M. Mullane was to be at the controls of the shuttle's robot arm inside the shuttle cabin Saturday to hoist the satellite out of the cargo bay, manoeuvre it over the side and release it when Atlantis is in a precise location and position.

With the shuttle in an orbit 385 kilometres high, Gibson and pilot air force Lt. Col. Guy S. Gardner were to fly alongside the \$500-million satellite until ground controllers are certain it is working properly. If it is not, an effort may be made to retrieve it for return to earth.

After liftoff, the shuttle headed straight towards the north into an orbit that will take it much farther north than most previous civilian flights. That appeared to confirm the orbit will take the satellite over the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where it will be able to observe military operations through darkness or cloud cover.

Such information would be invaluable for verifying Soviet arms control compliance. The satellite would also serve as a "radar-eye" for the new B-2 Stealth bomber, according to reports.

India marks Bhopal disaster with protests

BHOPAL, India (R) — Prayers and protests in this central Indian city marked the fourth anniversary Saturday of the world's worst industrial disaster, which killed more than 3,300 people and left thousands with mental and physical scars.

Demonstrators burned effigies of former Union Carbide chief Warren Anderson Friday night outside the U.S. corporation's Bhopal pesticide plant which leaked poison gas on the night of Dec. 3, 1984.

On Saturday morning members of India's many religions joined in prayers for the 1,700 victims who died within hours of the leak and the others who have died since at the rate of about one a day.

An official responsible for relief work in the city, capital of Madhya Pradesh state, said the death toll now stood at 3,330.

"Those who have died are lucky as they suffered for a lesser span of time than the survivors," said Alok Pratap Singh, an organiza-

niser for a group fighting for compensation for survivors and families of the victims.

Local officials said events marking the anniversary were lower key than in previous years.

The U.S. firm based in Danbury, Connecticut, has so far paid no compensation. An Indian court has issued arrest warrants against Anderson.

The Indian government's \$3 billion compensation claim against Union Carbide is locked in a complex legal battle which Indian newspapers speculate may take years.

Union Carbide, whose earlier offer of \$350 million as an out-of-court settlement of compensation claims was rejected by the Indian government, has argued the gas leak was sabotage.

It also contends it neither directly owned nor operated the Bhopal plant.

Up to 200,000 people were injured in the disaster. Doctors say many will die and others will remain too sick to work.



DHAKA (R) — Rescuers searched Saturday for 6,000 Bangladeshis believed swept to sea or trapped among the tangled roots of a mangrove forest when a cyclone battered the south of the country, killing at least 900 people.

Search continues for missing in Bangladesh

ladesians believed swept to sea or trapped among the tangled roots of a mangrove forest when a cyclone battered the south of the country, killing at least 900 people.

About 2,000 of the missing are from Duhlarhar Island, 100 kilometres from the coast, and could have been swept into the Sunderbans, the biggest mangrove forest in South Asia, officials said.

"We strongly feel that many people including fishermen and woodcutters may be trapped in the forest," said one.

The Sunderbans and nearby areas were swept by five-metre tidal waves spawned by the 165 kilometres per hour storm which

roared in off the Bay of Bengal Tuesday night.

Unofficial sources put the total number missing at more than 15,000 and relief officials say they fear the death toll could rise to 5,000 when reports from remote islands come in.

The cyclone also damaged rice and other crops over more than 5,000 square kilometres and made up to two million people homeless, according to preliminary estimates.

The new calamity battered the poor country of 110 million people as it struggled to recover from devastating floods that killed 3,000 people in August and September.

Roh regrets 1980 firings

SEOUL (R) — President Roh Tae-Woo's government took another step towards shaking off the legacy of his predecessor's iron rule Saturday, apologising for the dismissal of thousands of South Korean civil servants in 1980 and offering compensation.

Prime Minister Lee Hyun-Jae said in a statement the government "profoundly regretted the unhappy move taken in the past era, which has inflicted deep mental injuries on victims and their relatives and caused great shock to officialdom."

Nearly 9,000 civil servants and members of state-run companies were sacked for alleged corruption and "lack of patriotism" by the army strongman Chun Doo

Hwan on his path to the presidency.

Chun, who seized power in a 1979 Putsch, stepped down in favour of democratically-elected Roh in February.

Chun's so-called "social purification campaign" also cost hundreds of reporters, military officers and university professors their jobs.

Government administration minister Kim Yong-Kap told a news conference all sacked government officials would now be regarded as having "retired in honour" and receive half their salaries for the past eight unexpired years. Details of payment had yet to be worked out.

Kim, however, ruled out the

possibility of restoring the victims to their original posts because of legal and other difficulties. He said such action would disrupt the current official hierarchy.

The government proposal was immediately rejected by victims.

An association of sacked civil servants said in a statement: "This is not a solution to genuine liquidation (Chun's) fifth republic but a mere makeshift designed to gloss over basic problems."

Roh, elected on a personal commitment to democracy after distancing himself from Chun, his military classmate and former mentor, has been trying to reach a compromise with the opposi-

Vietnamese pound Khmer Rouge bases

BANGKOK (AP) — International aid officials said Saturday they have made little progress in their efforts to reach Kampuchean refugees reported killed or injured as Kampuchea continued to pound Khmer Rouge positions in Thailand.

Much of the shelling has been directed at an area just inside eastern Thai province, where the Khmer Rouge had herded some 7,000 refugees from the United Nations-aided camp of Ta Lan apparently to prepare to populate strategic areas of Kampuchea.

The shelling peaked in mid-November in the most intense cross-border bombardment since 1985. But even Tuesday, an official who visited Ta Lan and the Sok Sam camp nearby, said he heard "one shell a minute" crashing into the forested hills in the vicinity.

The communist Khmer Rouge has not sent any wounded people to medical facilities of the aid organisations. The Khmer Rouge slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people when it ruled Kampuchea in 1975-78, and is now the largest guerrilla army opposing Vietnam's occupation of the country.

The aid official Saturday quoted sources at site eight, the largest of four Khmer Rouge

border camps where the United Nations has access, as saying many of the wounded were taken northward to camp 85, a major Khmer Rouge military complex near site eight.

"There is a huge hospital there and it is full," the official said, speaking anonymously. "Nobody has been there but people say it has a capacity of 300 beds."

Aid officials had earlier quoted sources at a KPNLF military base near the sheltered area as saying there were up to 400 casualties. The KPNLF, or Khmer People's National Liberation Front, controls Sok Sam camp and is one of two non-communist guerrilla groups nominally allied with the Khmer Rouge.

The shelling has driven some 3,000 of the refugees back to Ta Lan, but aid officials have not seen any apparent shelling victims among them. Most returned before the height of the bombardment.

Perhaps out of fear of the Khmer Rouge, most of those who returned "pretend not to know" about possible casualties among the other refugees, the aid official said.

These people appeared in good condition, although some apparently contracted malaria at the new site, the official said.

China: Artifact at Sotheby's was stolen

NEW YORK (AP) — An ancient bronze vessel that was part of a lot to be auctioned in New York this week was stolen in June from a Chinese museum, said an official report from China. China's Interpol office notified its U.S. counterpart last week of the theft, and Chinese police met Monday with a U.S. embassy official to ask the U.S. government's help in recovering the vessel. The ritual vessel, called a "dai," was to be auctioned at Sotheby's in New York Tuesday, China's Xinhua news agency said.

But a Sotheby's spokesman in New York, Matthew Weighman, said the auction house withdrew the vessel from its Tuesday sale of "fine Chinese ceramics and works of art" at least two weeks ago. He said Sotheby's was holding it pending a resolution of the dispute between the owner and the Chinese government. Weighman said the owner had requested anonymity and that Sotheby's withdrew the artifact after receiving a description of the missing museum piece from a representative of the Chinese government.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Yugoslav minister blasts Australia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar attacked Australia Friday for closing the Yugoslav consulate in Sydney and expelling its staff. He said Belgrade would demand "satisfaction" for alleged breach of international diplomatic conventions. In an interview with Belgrade television, Loncar described the Australian action as "harmful, drastic" and contrary to the Vienna consular convention dealing with diplomatic status. Loncar, however, announced no diplomatic retaliation against Canberra. The Australian government Friday said the Yugoslav consulate in Sydney and ordered the staff expelled following a diplomatic row over Yugoslavia's refusal to surrender a security guard accused of shooting a demonstrator.

Ortega gets U.S. visa

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department will allow Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to visit the United Nations Monday even though his visa application was filed too late for the normal processing period, it was announced Friday. Privately, U.S. officials said Ortega plans to meet with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who will address the U.N. General Assembly next week. State Department deputy spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said visas were approved for Ortega, his wife, Rosarín, and his son, Rafael, for travel Dec. 5. They will be accompanied by Ortega's physician and 14 security guards. Oakley said their applications were expedited even though they were not received within the 15 working days the U.S. embassy in Managua requires for processing.

Soviet corruption trial adjourns

MOSCOW (R) — The corruption trial of Yuri Chubranov, son-in-law of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was adjourned Friday after hearing evidence from almost 200 witnesses over three months, TASS said. Chubranov, 51, a former Soviet first deputy interior minister, is accused of accepting more than \$1 million in bribes before being sacked in late 1984. With him in the dock are eight former police officials from Uzbekistan. The official Soviet news agency did not make clear when the trial would resume for its next stage — debate between the prosecution and defence lawyers, before the verdict and sentencing.

Tutu blames police for youth's death

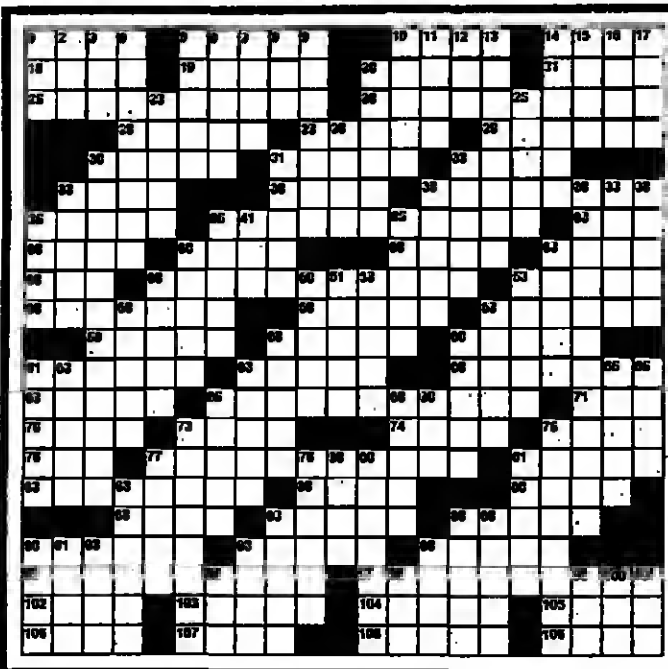
JOHANNESBURG (R) — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu blamed police Friday for the death of a teenage guerrilla suspect who fell from a high building while handcuffed in custody. "The security police know from frequent past experience that people detained by them have this extraordinary desire to jump off high buildings in their presence," Tutu said in a statement. "Why do they not take precautions to stop this from happening?" the black Nobel Peace Prize winner asked. Police commissioner Henrie de Witt announced Thursday that 18-year-old Amos Khoza had been arrested that morning on suspicion of belonging to the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and of having weapons.

Salinas spends busy first day

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Newly inaugurated President Carlos Salinas de Gortari had a full schedule his first full day in office, meeting with foreign visitors, Mexican governors and the supreme court. The president met Friday with Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary-General Joao Baena Soares and representatives from Brazil, France, Spain, India, Japan, Hungary and the Soviet Union. Salinas, who will serve a six-year term, was sworn in as president Thursday. Meanwhile, leaders of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI, chose replacements for the PRI president and general secretary that Salinas plucked away this week for his new cabinet.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Edmondson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Loud new tie salesman sold really wild, flowery foulard to mild-mannered man.
2. Flamboyant fellow claimed to have ridden a unicorn which arrived by U.F.O.
3. To have boisterous friends is fine, but do your friends have you?
4. Lucky drawing winner picked cash in lieu of showy first place gift.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. PROTLY EYSLR EYUSISIP HROOLPSUEL
GRIG'ER HUBBA TRY BUBBA. —By Lois H. Jones
2. CWGK MLS FER GOAAWT CHEKOS: BWGN
SWING NEAR NO SET ROUG, FLG ANG IMMR
BWGN NWT HOUG. —By Ed Edmondson
3. IQMCGNLT FVS OLIT HLOI IQSVMLJK XLK
XSVQHCY ET YCI PLFF VP YCI ELKYZFLL
—By Gordon Miller
4. HSSY HYSVVOYS URE NYITOUS RIOT
BECAVUABE BUCAIE. —By Barbara J. Ross

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

